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FM USMISSION USNATO
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INFO RUEHDX/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0276
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0542
RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO PRIORITY 0005
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA PRIORITY 0033
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0391
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 0063
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY 0054
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0171
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0827
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY 0061
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY 0041
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0030
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0179
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0322
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 0049
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0636
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0435
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0960
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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RHMFIUU/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHFMIUU/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 000353

SENSITIVE
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PLEASE PASS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND JUSTICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EWWT](#) [PHSA](#) [NATO](#) [MOPS](#) [MCAP](#) [SO](#) [XA](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTER-PIRACY: NATO BEGINS OPERATION OCEAN
SHIELD: INCLUDES CAPACITY BUILDING

REF: USNATO 350

¶1. (U) On August 17, NATO formally commenced Operation Ocean Shield -- the Alliance's long-term contribution to international efforts to combat piracy off the Horn of Africa. In a statement posted to its website, the Allied Maritime Component Command Headquarters Northwood (MCC Northwood) said that "while at-sea counter-piracy operations will continue to be the focus, a new element of regional-state counter-piracy capacity building has been developed for Operation Ocean Shield." The statement went on to note that "NATO's capacity building effort will aim to assist regional states, upon their request, in developing their own ability to combat piracy activities."

¶2. (SBU) COMMENT: In addition to the counter-piracy mission, the Alliance has also recently agreed to strengthen its relations with the African Union (AU), including increasing NATO's support for efforts to build the AU's security structures. As NATO engages Africa more through these initiatives, we hope that USG players in the continent--such as AFRICOM--will consider inviting NATO to observe or participate in upcoming U.S.-led capacity building events, such as exercises and planning conferences. NATO participation in such events would give us a better insight into how we can best leverage the Alliance's

capabilities/resources in pursuit of USG policy priorities in Africa. END COMMENT

13. (U) The full text of the MCC Northwood statement follows:

BEGIN TEXT

17 August 09

NATO begins Operation Ocean Shield

Operation Ocean Shield, NATO's contribution to international efforts to combat piracy off the Horn of Africa, commenced today after the North Atlantic Council (NAC) approved the mission. Operation Ocean Shield builds on the experience gained during Operation Allied Protector, NATO's previous counter-piracy mission, and develops a distinctive NATO role based on the broad strength of the Alliance by adopting a more comprehensive approach to counter-piracy efforts.

While at-sea counter-piracy operations will continue to be the focus, a new element of regional-state counter-piracy capacity building has been developed for Operation Ocean Shield. NATO's capacity building effort will aim to assist regional states, upon their request, in developing their own ability to combat piracy activities. This element of the operation is designed to complement existing international efforts and will contribute to a lasting maritime security

USNATO 00000353 002 OF 002

solution off the Horn of Africa.

END TEXT

13. (U) Additional news about NATO counter-piracy efforts can be found at the MCC Northwood website: www.manw.nato.int.
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